STANDARD FORM NO. 64 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED – SECURITY INFORMATION

234

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : S/P – Mr. Nitze DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATE: June 20, 1952

FROM : NE – Mr. Hart 1952 JUL 9 AM 9 33

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/28/78
PER VELIOTES OFFICE NEA
720115

SUBJECT: Internationalization of Jerusalem. OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

There is provided below, for your background information, a summary of the Jerusalem issue and the United States position with regard thereto.

On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution recommending the partition of Palestine and the creation of an international city in Jerusalem under the administration of the Trusteeship Council. The U.S. voted for this resolution and continued to support it until it became apparent it could not be implemented without the use of force.

May 14, 1948, Israel was proclaimed in Palestine and was promptly recognized by the U.S. and many other countries. Shortly thereafter, war broke out between the neighboring Arab states and Israel, and between May and September Israel gained control of a corridor of territory between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and of all of the New City of Jerusalem. The Old City was occupied promptly by the Arab Legion of Jordan in May 1948. Since that time the City of Jerusalem has been divided into two zones an Arab and a Jewish – each zone administered, respectively, by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel. Both of these states have opposed any plan of full internationalization, while agreeing in principle to some form of UN representation in the area. The UN has to date, however, been unable to adopt a plan which would receive the support of the two states in occupation of the City. The U.S. does not believe that force can be employed under the UN to enforce a political recommendation of the Assembly.

In late 1948 the U.S. supported the adoption by the GA of its resolution of December 11, 1948, which established the Palestine Conciliation Commission and instructed the latter to present to the Fourth Regular Session of the GA detailed proposals for a permanent international regime for the Jerusalem area which would provide for the maximum local autonomy consistent with the special international status of Jerusalem. As a member of the Commission, the U.S. participated in drafting these proposals and gave them its support in the Fourth Regular Session in the belief that they represented reasonable compromise between interests of the international community and those of the inhabitants of the city. The Assembly did not, however, give any consideration to these proposals and, instead, on December 9, 1949 adopted a resolution establishing Jerusalem as a corpus separatum and directing the Trusteeship Council to complete the statute for Jerusalem, which had been previously drafted under the provisions of the November 29 resolution, and to proceed with its implementation. The U.S. opposed this resolution

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY VWOLF JR DATE 6/1/81
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. BAT
TS AUTH. REVIEWER
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
UNCLASSIFIED – SECURITY INFORMATION

resolution, believing it to be impracticable.

As a loyal member of the UN, the U.S. cooperated with the Trusteeship Council in the completion of the draft statute for Jerusalem. Since Jordan and Israel gave every indication of unwillingness to accept the draft statute, and since the Trusteeship Council was in itself powerless to implement the resolution without such acceptance, the Council was forced to report that it had been unable to carry out the Assembly's instructions.

In the Fifth General Assembly the Ad Hoc Committee again considered the question of Jerusalem but rejected a Swedish resolution which would have provided for the protection of the Holy Palces without interfering with the Civil administration of the respective Arab and Israel zones of the City. It adopted, instead, a Belgian resolution which was in effect an adaptation of the corpus separatum resolution of the year before. The Assembly, however, did not approve the Belgian resolution and the matter was dropped without consideration of any new proposal.

The American Ambassador in Tel Aviv was authorized on February 1, 1951 to have official contact with the Israel Government in Jerusalem strictly on and adhoc basis limiting all such contacts to business of urgent or special technical nature. No statement to this effect has ever been issued to the Israel Government. The Israel Cabinet, at its meeting of May 4, 1952, announced its intention to move the Foreign Office to Jerusalem as soon as facilities are available. The question now arises as to whether the American Embassy in Tel Aviv should be moved to Jerusalem if and when the Israel Foreign Office moves there.

Attachment::

List of important events relating to the status of Jerusalem.

NEA:NE:FEWaller:mms

UNCLASSIFIED

February 1, 1949	The Israel Cabinet decided to incorporate Israel-held Jerusalem into Israel.
February 14, 1949	Dr. Chaim Weizmann opened first session of Israel Constituent Assembly (Knesset), in Jerusalem.
June 29, 1949	Israel Parliament went on record as stating that Jerusalem should be an "integral part" of Israel.
September 6, 1949	The PCC asked the Israel Government for explanation of reports that government offices were being moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Such a transfer, a spokesman said, would be contrary to the GA resolution of December 11, 1948, which provided for the internationalization of Jerusalem.
December 13, 1949	Prime Minister Ben Gurion announced in Parliament that "we are continuing with the transfer of the Government to Jerusalem and hope to complete it as soon as possible".
December 14, 1949	Prime Minister Ben Gurion arranged to move his Ministry from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
December 16, 1949	Prime Minister Ben Gurion set January 1, 1950 as the deadline for the formal transfer of Israel Government activities, except for the Foreign Ministry, from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
December 20, 1949	Trusteeship Council voted to authorize its president to request the Israel Government to remove from Jerusalem all governmental departments which were shifted from Tel Aviv to that city.
December 21, 1949	Israel Government spokesman said Israel would continue to transfer its government from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem despite condemnation of the move by the Trusteeship Council.
December 31, 1949	Israel rejected the Trusteeship Council resolution appealing to it to give up Jerusalem as its capital and to transfer its various governmental departments back to Tel Aviv.
January 30, 1951	During debate in the Parliament, Foreign Minister Sharett stated that "The question of the transfer to Jerusalem of the Foreign Office is no longer today a question of principle but is connected with certain preparations and certain circumstances, and the Government will transfer the Foreign Office to Jerusalem at the right time."

UNCLASSIFIED